

5-24-1880

Letter from Adeline Manning, to Anne Whitney, 1880 May 24

Adeline Manning

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Wed. a. m. Aunt seems so strong & bright this morning I feel
that I can write a little more, knowing that you
can read. Aunt had from East Henry
till this morning ^{one} of her most
suffering times. But since
early morning she has fallen
into a condition of seeming
real ease. She has said several
times. "How comfortable I am."
The heat is intense. 95° in
the shade. But she enjoys
freedom from the flannel
wrappings we have kept
about her. While this lasts
it is easy to take care of her.

His disease has developed into
consumption. I asked the
doctor today to give him some-
thing that should make him
sleep for the rest of his life,
rather than let him have
another night like the last.
When Louise was dying we
gave him chloroform for
the last few days. But
because of Anna's heart dis-
ease she is denied that
relief. Though she has often
called for it. I told the
doctor that unless he had
other means of relief, I
should be willing to give
the chloroform if I knew
it would be instantly fa-

tal. Fortunately he will
give morphine after this, &
says it will keep her at
ease. She is today partly in
the influence of sedative.
But fortunately Miss Conscience
for Sarah came in this
morning, & she has the
comfort of spending a
peaceful day with Aunt, &
Aunt enjoys seeing her again.
I am taking another day of
entire rest. I cannot see that
Aunt is not likely to live some
time longer. Indeed it seems
more so today than yesterday.
M. was a succession of strong
gales with coughing, & faintness
afterward, in which each time
she seemed about to breathe

her last. She has the relief of
being lifted from bed to Couch
or rocking Chair quite fre-
quently - by her strong nurse.
Yesterday all day she was sen-
sibly a dead weight: But today
she rises up, & asks to walk, &
twice, with help has walked to
the window. Sarah was speak-
ing to her this morning about
Henry, & Aunt said "He is a
dear boy; I am just as much
pleased as if they were all my
own." & Sarah said "He
all your own - you have been
a mother to us all." & she
smiled & looked very happy.

Aunt thinks a great deal
about Henry. He is engaged
to a Lady in Philadelphia -

& had told Aunt about it-
before she was taken sick;
before he had told any one
else. She refers to the Lady
as "The new Louise." All the
days seem to me like Sunday
now. It was last Friday that
Aunt had a very happy day.
Dr Bathin's new wife our pretty
neighbor Kelly Woodward sent
her a quantity of beautiful
flowers, with the message that
they were to sail for Europe the
next day, & wished they could
see Aunt once. "Yes indeed I
want to see them" said Aunt.
& I want to be made to look
very nice. So he put on a
cap, & a pretty sack over
his night gown, & sent to
them to come: but they could

not come till 5 o'clock, & many
time Aunt woke from a nap
she asked, if they had come.
They stayed but few minutes, but
it was as much as she could bear.
O Mr. Gorman who had hoped
to see her after them, did not go
up. Except there, she has seen only
the family & Mr. Chadwick, Long-
fellow & Camp. A bright spot in
the morning of that same day
was when May took her baby
in - "O this is an oasis in the
desert" she said.
It is a pleasure to hear of your
going & coming, my dearest, but
do not write one word to try
my eyes. I thought Mrs. Chap-
man would go with you to
Chicopee? & you do not say

that life might be prolonged a good while yet. I must

Any thing about visits from her.
Yet I have been away nearly
three weeks. I wish I was there
now after you had been to W.

I am glad with you for any
touch that makes the best-
better. And I am very sorry
for the early coming of the hay-
cold: but what could be expected
in these heats? It will prevent
your going to Belmont so much,
just now when you most
need to be able to go there.
Take my dear love with you,
when you go next time, for
all my friends there. How is
our Sarah? She was so poorly
when I was there.

There are so many things I
want to write, but must not now.

himself speaks last night & this morning as if life
would be pleasant - for the first time since I came
home. What does this mean. At least it is hap-
piness for us all. Then the longing to go - the re-
solving to take good last it should keep her.
Sarah will remain here today. & Mary Shaw
is still here. & I am to spend the day at
May's. I will not write again till
Sunday.

Wed. a. m. Aunt seems so strong & bright this morning that
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